



Foundation
Scotland

The Mary Janet King Fund

Fund Report
January 2025





Awards at a glance....



TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS TO DATE
347



AMOUNT AWARDED SINCE FUND LAUNCH (2007)
£345,586



NUMBER OF AWARDS LAST YEAR (2024)
25



AMOUNT AWARDED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS
£77,347

Introduction

The Mary Janet King Fund was established in 2007 and is now in its 18th year. Foundation Scotland is pleased to offer its grant making services to ensure that there is a steady flow of quality projects being recommended in line with the fund priorities.

This fund supports community groups working with young people to take up musical instruments. It supports piano scholarships at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, but it will also make a small number of awards to community-based organisations who are helping young people to learn a musical instrument and play music as part of a group.

The Fund has its own webpage on the Foundation Scotland website and applications have been accepted at any time up until recently reflecting the donor's desire to do more giving.

[Mary Janet King Memorial Fund | Foundation Scotland](#)

Rates of application have been high in both 2023 and 2024. In 2023 we awarded 21 grants, and in 2024 we awarded 25 grants.

Project Updates

The following updates are for all grants awarded in 2023. Applicants are given 12 months from the date of award to complete a final report, so these reports have been received in the last year.

The Lochgelly Band received a grant of £4,916 in January 2023 to purchase a new baritone horn. The new baritone horn has greatly benefited the band's baritone player, who commutes from Oban to Lochgelly to participate. Previously, she had been using a worn, second-hand instrument, which impacted her performance and required frequent maintenance.

Jhankar Beats received an award of £4,858 in March to support its '*Music in my Ears*' project, which offers weekly music and dance sessions for young people. The project provided four hours of activities each week over 35 weeks, allowing participants to learn traditional Indian instruments, including the harmonium and tabla. This initiative helps young people with Indian heritage connect with their cultural heritage, building self-esteem and confidence through music.

The Girvan Youth Pipe Band Association received a grant of £4,928 in April to support ongoing tuition in piping and drumming for children and young people in the Girvan area. This grant has enabled the organisation to deliver weekly lessons in chanter, highland bagpipe, and pipe band drumming, impacting over 100 participants in the rural Girvan District. Throughout this period, the young musicians have improved their musical skills, expanded their repertoire, and built confidence, supported by tutors who prepare them for public performances.

The Youth Pipe Band actively participates in community events, bringing joy to local audiences. During 2023 the band performed at venues such as care homes, the Girvan Arts Festival, and community holiday events. In March 2024, they competed in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in Kilmarnock, where the drumming corps achieved a commendable third place.

The Articulate Cultural Trust was awarded a grant of £5,000 in April to support the creation of a new singing group, '*Belters*', specifically for care-experienced young people aged 8-12 who previously had no formal opportunity to explore singing. This project was designed to foster mental and physical well-being, along with soft skills development, by offering a supportive, trauma-informed space for musical expression.

Belters ran bi-weekly sessions in a dedicated studio space, engaging 29 young people in various musical activities which included singing, songwriting, spoken word and percussion. This project underscored the therapeutic potential of music and group singing, especially for young people dealing with childhood trauma.

Forfar Instrumental Band was awarded £4,500 in April to establish 'Forfar Future Brass', a new youth brass band for players aged 5 to 22. The funding was used to support hall hire, purchase and maintenance of instruments, music stands, uniforms and sheet music. Since its inception, Forfar Future Brass has welcomed 11 new young players. These young musicians received instruments, uniforms, and lessons, allowing them to form a functioning brass band. Forfar Future Brass has already performed at the band's Annual Concert, attended by over 100 community members, showcasing their rapid progress. The band now aims to participate in summer community events to further develop their performance abilities. You can see them play here:

[2023 Scottish Championship 4B Section with Adjudication: Forfar Instrumental Band](#)

Lyra was awarded a £4,000 grant in May to support a series of weekly music sessions for children from the Niddrie and Craigmillar areas. The funding enabled 30 after-school sessions for 25 - 30 children, aimed at enhancing their self-esteem and creative abilities. The music programme ran from August 2023 to May 2024, with 30 young participants joining from the community and local primary schools. Throughout the year, the children engaged in music tuition in voice, percussion, keyboard, and guitar. The project also included cultural outings, such as attending performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Edinburgh International Children's Festival. Many expressed feeling safe and supported at Lyra, with some children stating they would otherwise be "*bored at home*" or "*playing video games all day*."

EPIC East Ayrshire Pipe Band Academy received £5,000 in May to support venue hire across six locations, enabling music tuition for local young people. This project aimed to foster creativity and improve lives. Weekly workshops were established, serving 200 young people from underprivileged backgrounds.

The Scottish Schools Orchestra Trust (SScOT) was awarded £2,000 in June support its core costs for two Play Away Days and a residential Summer Course. These events, held at Strathallan School in Perth and St George's School in Edinburgh, provided musical and social opportunities for young musicians across Scotland. The events were open access, with no auditions required, promoting inclusivity. Over the season, SScOT engaged 125 string players and 115 wind, brass, and percussion players, supported by 18 specialist music tutors and three conductors.

In May 2023, **Lyth Arts Centre** was awarded £4,464 to develop the *Young Music Makers Outreach Programme*, aimed at providing music-making opportunities for young people in the North of Scotland. This programme collaborated with community groups such as Homestart in Thurso and Wick, and PPP (a nursery and homework club), allowing young children, including those with additional support needs, to engage with music in a familiar and supportive environment. Weekly sessions led by a local musician and early years specialist reached over 100 children aged 0–12 across two six-to-eight-week blocks.

Irvine and Dreghorn Brass, a long-established community band, received £2,000 in May to support five community concerts in 2023. The funding helped cover various expenses such as music, conductor fees, rehearsal costs, hall hire, and subsidising ticket prices. The concerts featured their three bands (senior, youth, and community bands) and included a summer concert, two autumn concerts, two Christmas concerts, and a spring event. The concerts were well-attended, reaching approximately 600 individuals, with participation from players and audiences of all ages.

The National Youth Choir of Scotland received £3,000 in May to cover the costs of running the East Dunbartonshire NYCOS choir for boys. The choir's sessions started in August at Maryhill Ruchill Parish Church and ran for 27 weeks, divided into junior, intermediate, and senior groups. A total of 25 participants aged 8 to 18 took part, with 4 new members joining through recruitment workshops in local community venues. Seven children received bursaries from the Choir to cover their membership fees.

Throughout the year, participants worked on a diverse range of music, including traditional songs and works by renowned composers, while also developing their musicianship and music theory skills.



Several members received Bronze and Silver musicianship awards. The choir held a winter concert in November 2023, and another in June 2024, where the choir performed alongside the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir, providing role models for the young participants and attracting a wider audience. The choir aims to continue fostering choral singing for boys.

National Boys Choir 2022. Photographer: Sally Jubb

The Scottish Ensemble received £2,000 in July to support young string musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) by providing them with opportunities to play alongside professional ensemble members. Thirteen students were selected through an audition process to take part in a five-day side-by-side project in January 2024. This project offered students a chance to experience working within a professional string ensemble, guided by the ensemble's principal players, and included a diverse repertoire from composers such as Mozart, Glass, Shaw, Stravinsky, and Gershwin. The project culminated in a public performance at RCS's Stevenson Hall, where students performed as part of the *Fridays at One* series. Two students, George Hillier (viola) and Rebekah Lesan (cello), were selected as Young Artists for their commitment, and they will receive additional mentoring, professional development opportunities, and participate in upcoming Scottish Ensemble tours.

The Variations Summer School received £2,000 in May to support tuition fees for the chamber music programme held in Ullapool in July 2023.



The course attracted 53 amateur musicians, primarily from Scotland, with some returning participants from other countries, highlighting the event's reputation. Twelve groups, including string and wind ensembles, were coached by members of the Edinburgh Quartet and guest tutors.

The week featured two well-received concerts that drew local audiences, though attendance from the general public has been challenging post-pandemic. Informal sessions allowed participants to explore additional repertoire and interact across groups, enriching their musical experience. Feedback indicated strong satisfaction with the course structure.

TRASH Music Projects received £5,000 in June to cover musician fees, rehearsal costs, and travel for young people to perform at the MugStock Music Festival. The project began with rehearsals led by a team that included Lewis Gordon, bassist for Deacon Blue, helping the young musicians prepare for their festival performance. Unfortunately, the MugStock event was cancelled due to bad weather, but the group was invited to perform at Solfest in Cumbria, where they played as a rock band.

One of the project's participants made significant progress, from initially joining as a junk percussionist to becoming a skilled guitarist and drummer. She successfully auditioned for college to study applied music and has become a leader within the group, helping maintain instruments and contributing to songwriting ideas.

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) received a £3,000 grant in July to support musician fees and travel bursaries for the RSNO's Young Creatives project.

This initiative is a creative arts and leadership programme for young people aged 15–21, providing hands-on experience in professional orchestra roles, including performing and concert administration. During the project, 51 participants (11 programmers and 40 musicians) from 19 Scottish local authorities collaborated to plan, design, and perform a full orchestral concert alongside the RSNO, culminating in a final showcase, *Between the Lines: Myths in Music*, on 2 June 2024.

The programme also included workshops, rehearsals, and concert visits in major cities, with strong attendance and positive participant feedback. Many noted the value of teamwork, creative freedom, and supportive guidance, fostering confidence, skills, and lasting friendships.

Beith Community Development Trust was awarded a £5,000 grant in August to support its ‘*Harmonise*’ project, which aimed to develop skills, confidence, and positive mental health among young people aged 13 to 25 through music. The funding enabled the Trust to partner with the music therapy charity Nordoff and Robbins to deliver ten weeks of specialised music therapy sessions for young people facing social and emotional challenges. These sessions provided a supportive and engaging environment for those struggling to integrate into school life.

In addition to the music therapy sessions, the grant allowed the Trust to deliver a variety of other music-focused activities. Instrument lessons in drumming, guitar, and piping were provided to children from low-income families, giving them access to music tuition they would not otherwise have been able to afford. During a one-week initiative called ‘*Band Factory*’, 21 young participants formed bands, rehearsed together, and culminated the experience with a live performance, an event that promoted teamwork, creativity, and self-confidence.

The Trust's volunteers were recognised for their contributions at a dedicated awards night, where they received Saltire Awards to celebrate their commitment.

The Glasgow Barons received a grant of £4,292 in October to organise music tuition sessions and concerts for primary school children in Govan. With this support, the organisation hired Siobhan Rodger, a children's choir coach, and Tina Freeland, a music specialist for children with additional support needs. Siobhan led choir sessions at St. Saviours and Lorne St. Primary schools, coaching 55 students over eight weeks for mass choir gatherings held in December and March.

These events included performances attended by other schools, local carers, and the general public. Tina conducted weekly sessions at Hazelwood School from January to March, working with six students with severe disabilities to enable them to participate as musicians in the March concert. This event opened the Govan Music Festival on 13 March at Fairfield Working Men's Club, attended by 135 children and 105 adults.

In addition to these choir initiatives, The Glasgow Barons organised a free workshop on school choir development for Govan teachers, held at Lorne St. Primary. The organisation also continued its support for Riverside Primary's 'Baby Strings' program. Its resident quartet, The Four Barons, performed for all P1-5 students in two concerts, allowing the children to experience live string music and learn about musicianship.

The impact of these programs has strengthened community support for ongoing musical initiatives and fostered a positive cultural shift within Govan's schools, encouraging sustained music education. Riverside Primary has now entered its second year of Baby Strings, and Ibrox Primary is starting its first. Given ongoing budget cuts, projects like these play a critical role in maintaining student engagement and achievement in areas with socioeconomic challenges.

The Glasgow Acting Academy (GAA) received a £6,000 grant in November to support its scholarship programme, enabling young people facing financial hardship to participate in acting and musical theatre classes. The scholarships have been vital in removing financial barriers for students from low-income households. Without this support, these young people would have missed the chance to participate in GAA's artistic programmes or any extracurricular activities.

Beyond class participation, the scholarships have profoundly impacted students' personal growth and confidence. For example, one 11-year-old girl developed her skills and confidence, eventually landing a lead role in *The Wizard of Oz*. Another scholarship recipient, aged six, went to confidently performing for family and even auditioning for a CBeebies show. A 17-year-old student with a visual impairment, has been inspired to pursue acting as a career and has secured a place to study acting at college. Another 17-year-old, initially new to performing arts, used his scholarship-supported experience at GAA to gain a spot in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's junior programme.

In November, **the B.J.O. Amara Association** was awarded £5,000 to purchase additional musical instruments and provide tuition for aspiring pipers. The project focused on introducing disadvantaged children in Glasgow to Scottish musical instruments, particularly bagpipes and drums. Weekly sessions were held at Maryhill Road, Glasgow running from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024. Over 40 weeks, the program engaged approximately 10 children.

"We appreciate the support and streamlined application process provided by Foundation Scotland. The grant enabled us to make a lasting impact on the lives of young people and the wider community."

The Viewforth High School Parent Council received £2,000 in November 2023 to cover entry fees for the Fife Festival of Music in 2024 and future years, along with other extracurricular music activities. Thanks to this support, 18 students participated in the festival, competing at venues like the Adam Smith Theatre and St Bryce Kirk. Those who participated saw marked improvements in their performance skills since January preliminaries, achieving commendations ranging from 'Outstanding' to 'Good'. Four students won their categories, including a pupil who won the Glen More Trophy in the Young Musician 2024 category, the festival's top prize.

The success of this year's participants has inspired others to consider entering next year, breaking the misconception that Viewforth pupils cannot compete with larger schools. The funding, which exceeds current festival costs, will allow further participation over the next few years, removing financial barriers and encouraging more students to join.

The chairman of the festival, Graeme Wilson, praised Viewforth for its strong representation, which was made possible by the funding. Students now feel more confident in their abilities and motivated to achieve, inspired by the success of their peers.

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland received their usual £4,000 annual scholarship payment for four piano scholars.

Thank you for supporting all of these great projects!

Contact

Annabel Bath, Philanthropy Funds Adviser

Foundation Scotland

Tel: 0131 524 0351

annabel@foundationscotland.org.uk



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